

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-16 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 8 are independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al. (USP 6,750,437) in view of Perregaux et al. (USP 5,119,181), and Nakano et al. (USP 6,094,220). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3.

With regard to claim 3, the Examiner states, in the Office Action, that “Yamashita, as modified by Perregaux and Nakano, teaches the method wherein a control step variably controls the signal processing for the image signal in accordance with a zoom position of the lens (Nakano, col. 2, lines 18-23).”

Applicants submit that both Yamashita and Perregaux do not disclose or suggest any features directed to a lens having a zoom feature.

Nakano discloses, in col. 2, lines 18-23:

The image pickup unit 11 includes a lens block 111 which performs automatic focus control, automatic iris control and zoom control or the like and an image pickup element 112 which converts light having passed the lens block 111 into an electrical signal.

In other words, Nakano merely states that the image pickup unit 11 has a zoom feature.

In view of this, Even assuming that Yamashita, Perregaux, and Nakano can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, provide a zoom feature to an image pickup apparatus of Yamashita, modified by Perregaux, and would not conceive a method of controlling a solid-state image pickup apparatus that switches “color difference gain

processing for the image signal . . . in accordance with the detected zoom position to thereby lower a chroma of the image signal,” as recited in claim 1.

The foregoing feature of the present invention is disclosed in Fig. 1 and in paragraphs [0053]-[0060] of the specification.

Claims 2, 4, and 15, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 8, as amended to include the limitations of claim 10, is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Claims 9, 11, and 16, variously dependent on claim 8, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 8.

Claims 3 and 10 have been canceled.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 5 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Perregaux and Nakano, and further in view of Nakata et al. (USP 6,747,696). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5, indirectly dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 12, indirectly dependent on claim 8, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 8.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claims 6-7 and 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Perregaux and Nakano, and further in view of Ng et al. (USP 5,699,102). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 13-14, variously dependent on claim 8, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 8.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion


Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 6, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  (Reg. # 40,417)
D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant